The Five Pillars of Islam

By Mansoor Ali Shah
لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللّٰهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللّٰهِ

Baba and Mansoor sat in their backyard, watching the evening sky turn golden.

Mansoor: Baba, today my teacher said that Islam has five pillars. But I don't see any pillars in our house like the ones in the masjid!

Baba (smiling): Ah, Mansoor, the pillars your teacher mentioned are not made of bricks or stone. They are the foundation of our faith, the things that hold Islam strong in our hearts.

Mansoor: Oh! Can you tell me what they are?

Baba: Of course! The first pillar is Shahadah—testifying that there is no god but Allah, and that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is His Messenger. This is the key to being a Muslim.

Mansoor: That's what I say in my prayers! "La ilaha illallah, Muhammadur Rasulullah!"

Baba: Exactly! The second pillar is Salah—our daily prayers. We pray five times a day to remember Allah and stay close to Him.

Mansoor: I love praying with you at the masjid, Baba!

Baba: And I love praying with you too, my son. The third pillar is Zakat—giving charity to those in need. When we share what Allah has given us, our hearts become kind and pure.

Mansoor: Like when we give food to the poor in Ramadan?

Baba: Yes! Speaking of Ramadan, the fourth pillar is Sawm, fasting in the month of Ramadan. Fasting teaches us patience and gratitude.

Mansoor: I tried fasting last Ramadan! I made it till Zuhr!

Baba (laughing): That's a great start! One day, you'll fast the whole day, inshaAllah. And the fifth pillar is Hajj—the pilgrimage to Makkah. Every Muslim who is able must visit the Ka'bah at least once.

Mansoor: I want to go to Makkah with you one day, Baba!

Baba: InshaAllah, we will go together. These five pillars make us strong Muslims. Just like a house needs pillars to stand tall, we need these pillars to keep our faith strong.

Mansoor: I understand now, Baba! I want my heart to have strong pillars!

Baba (smiling): And you will, my dear. Always remember them, and Allah will bless you.